

**AMENDMED CLAIM SET:**

Claim 1. (currently amended) Spherical particles for thermal spraying, consisting essentially of a yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound and having a breaking strength of at least 10 MPa and an average particle diameter of ~~[[10]]~~ 15 to 80  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 2. (previously presented) Spherical particles for thermal spraying, consisting essentially of a yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound and having a bulk density of at least 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, an aspect ratio of up to 2, and a cumulative volume of pores with a radius of up to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  which is less than 0.5 cm<sup>3</sup>/g.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The spherical particles of claim 2 having a particle size distribution in which a particle diameter D90, D50 and D10 corresponds to 90 vol%, 50 vol% and 10 vol% accumulation, respectively, wherein D90 is up to ~~[[100]]~~ 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and the ratio of D50 to a Fisher diameter is up to 5.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The spherical particles of claim 3 wherein D10 is at least ~~[[5]]~~ 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the particles have a dispersion index of up to 0.6.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The spherical particles of claim 1 wherein said yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound is a yttrium or lanthanide oxide or yttrium or lanthanide compound oxide.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The spherical particles of claim 2 wherein said yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound is a yttrium or lanthanide oxide or yttrium or lanthanide compound oxide.

Claim 7. (previously presented) A thermal sprayed component comprising a substrate having a surface and a coating of the yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound particles of claim 1 thermally sprayed to the substrate surface.

Claim 8. (previously presented) A thermal sprayed component comprising a substrate having a surface and a coating of the yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound particles of claim 2 thermally sprayed to the substrate surface.

Claim 9. (previously presented) The spherical particles of claim 1, wherein said yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of yttrium oxide and ytterbium oxide.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The spherical particles of claim 2, wherein said yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of yttrium oxide and ytterbium oxide.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The spherical particles of claim 1, wherein said spherical particles are obtained by granulating yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound fines having a Fisher diameter of up to 0.6  $\mu\text{m}$  into granules and firing said granules.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The spherical particles of claim 2, wherein said spherical particles are obtained by granulating yttrium or lanthanide-containing compound ~~fines having a Fisher diameter of up to 0.6  $\mu\text{m}$  into granules~~ compound having an average particle diameter of 0.01 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and firing said granules.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The spherical particles of claim 11, wherein said granules are fired at a temperature of ~~[[1200]]~~ 1500 to 1800°C.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The spherical particles of claim 12, wherein said granules are fired at a temperature of 1200 to 1800°C.

Claim 15. (currently amended) The spherical particles of claim 1, having an average particle diameter of ~~[[10]]~~ 15 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .